

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.- 42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) A sheath assembly for a probe, comprising:
an internal sheath configured to isolate a probe from body fluids; and
an external sheath circumferentially surrounding the internal sheath, the external sheath configured to define a channel for passing of fluids, tools or working tubes and the internal and external sheaths being connected to each other,
wherein the external sheath and the internal sheath are not coupled along their length, and
wherein the internal sheath is not affected when tools or working tubes are passed through the channel.

44.-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the internal and external sheaths are connected substantially only at a plurality of circumferential points at a distal end of the external sheath.

49. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the internal and external sheaths coextend at their distal ends, such that their distal ends extend to a same point.

50. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the internal sheath extends beyond the distal end of the external sheath.

51. – 72. (Cancelled)

73. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein at least one channel is defined between the external sheath and the internal sheath along at least a portion of the sheath assembly.

74. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 73 wherein the at least one channel is open at the distal end of the sheaths.

75. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 73, wherein the channel does not surround the entire internal sheath.

76. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 73, wherein the at least one channel comprises two channels.

77.-78. (Cancelled)

79. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the external sheath and the internal sheath are connected to a proximal connector.

80. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the external sheath is formed with an internal notch adapted to receive a dovetail of a working tube.

81. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the external sheath is sealed at its distal end.

82. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the internal sheath comprises an imaging window at its distal end.

83. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein at least the distal ends of the internal and external sheaths are foldable.

84. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein at least the distal ends of the internal and external sheaths are bendable.

85. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the external sheath is non-elastic.

86. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein at least one of the internal and the external sheath is stretchable.

87. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the internal and external sheaths have substantially the same thickness.

88. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the internal and external sheaths are formed from the same material.

89. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein a rigid pipe section is located at the proximal end of the internal sheath.

90. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the external sheath is non-self-collapsible.

91. (Cancelled)

92. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the external sheath extends over at least 50% of the internal sheath.

93. (Cancelled)

94. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the internal sheath is bendable, configured to bend longitudinally around corners while the sheath assembly is inserted into a patient.

95. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the external sheath is folded during insertion into the body.

96. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the external sheath and the internal sheath are coupled at their distal ends only.

97. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly according to claim 43, wherein the channel imparts an asymmetrical force on the internal sheath when tools or working tubes are passed through the channel.